

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (c) No Sir.

(b) and (d) Do not arise.

Strengthening of TV network

1040. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any step has been taken by Government to strengthen the network in the main towns as well as in rural Assam as a supplement to newly inaugurated twenty four hour service project;

(b) if so, the steps taken, so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The North East Channel, which began 24 hours transmission on 27.12.2000, is a satellite channel and its programmes can be viewed throughout North East through cable network/dish antennae system. Prasar Bharati has informed that terrestrial transmitters are not envisaged to be set up for relay of the North East channel. For expansion of DDI services in Assam, Prasar Bharati is setting up a transposer at Guwahati.

Cultural invasion in the country

1041. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of programmes which are against the ethos of Indian culture are beaming in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have directed DTH operators to adhere to the cultural values and traditions of the country and also propose to take action against violators;

(c) if so, the facts and the details thereof; and

(d) other steps Government propose to take to check cultural invasion in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (d) The programmes of satellite